

# Sensational Trials In Spy Case Forecast By Justice Officials

Two of Six Arrested  
Are Listed by FBI  
As Countesses

Trial of the alleged German agents rounded up by the FBI in connection with a spy plot against Detroit and other American munitions centers, which backfired against its perpetrators in Germany, will be "hum-dinger," it was predicted today at the Justice Department.

No further developments are expected in the case, however, until members of the spy ring go into court to defend themselves against charges of violating the wartime espionage law, which prescribes death as the maximum penalty.

Meanwhile, four women, among them two identified in FBI records as countesses, and a man, are being held in Detroit, and another man, Bertrand Stuart Hoffman, 27, a member of the American merchant marine, remained in FBI custody in New York.

Two of the women were arrested as "dangerous enemy aliens," and as is customary in such cases, their names were not disclosed. One was said to be a member of a prominent Detroit family. The FBI said she was born in Berlin, held the title of countess and had lived in Detroit several years.

The other countess, attractive Grace Buchanan-Dineen, 34-year-old cosmopolitan with a wide social acquaintanceship, is being held in Detroit on a charge of giving war information to Germany. It was she, the FBI said, who, when dis-

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## Spies

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covered in her activities, turned counter-spy and co-operated with Federal agents to the end that the Nazi espionage got only the information which the Government "desired." All her transmissions were scrutinized by Army and Navy intelligence.

When arraigned in Detroit yesterday, the Associated Press quoted her as saying: "I have no wish to consult an attorney for I have nothing to say."

The wife of Dr. Fred William Thomas, 44, Detroit obstetrician who was similarly charged, told reporters,

according to the Associated Press, she was "stunned" at his arrest. Pointing out that she and her husband were born in the United States, Mrs. Thomas was quoted as declaring:

"I refuse to believe there is a word of truth in these charges against him. I can imagine nothing lower than any one who would sell out his country. While I do not expect to choose between my husband and my country, because I know he is innocent, if it came to a showdown my country would come first."

Dr. Thomas pleaded not guilty when arraigned.

The fourth woman arrested in Detroit on a charge of violating the wartime espionage law—Mrs. Theresa Wassertauer Behrens, 41—and Miss Buchanan-Dineen stood mute on arraignment and not guilty pleas were entered for them. All were held in \$50,000 bond each for examination next month.

Another defendant, Merchant Marine Seaman Stuart Hoffman, 27, arrested in New York by FBI agents, was being removed to Detroit today, accompanied by a United States marshal.

Hoffman's removal order was signed yesterday by Federal Judge Marcus B. Campbell in Brooklyn.

In Detroit, Miss Buchanan-Dineen lived in an apartment next to a United States Naval armory. During her year and a half here she had been well received socially and made numerous lectures before women's groups.

Mrs. Behrens Naturalized Citizen.

Mrs. Behrens was born in Yugoslavia, of German parents. She came to Detroit in 1913 and became a naturalized citizen in 1929, listing her occupation as a social worker. The FBI said she had made numerous trips to Germany.

Dr. Thomas was born in Fresno, Ohio, and in 1928 served as an exchange surgeon in St. George Hospital, Hamburg, Germany.

Hoffman was born in St. Thomas, Ontario. The FBI said he was a frequent visitor to the German restaurant once operated by Max Stephan, convicted of treason and now serving a life sentence for aiding a Nazi flyer who escaped from a Canadian prison camp.

Came to U. S. in 1941.

Activities of the spy ring, according to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, centered about Miss Buchanan-Dineen, who shortly after her arrival in this country on an Atlantic Clipper in October, 1941, came to the attention of the FBI as a mysterious "Miss Smith" of Detroit.

She came to the United States,



**SARI DE HAJEK,**  
Former exchange student at  
Vassar College, reported by  
the FBI to have recruited  
Grace Buchanan-Dineen.

—A. P. Wirephotos.

Mr. Hoover said, with last-minute instructions given her by a German naval attaché in Lisbon just before the Clipper departed.

Miss Buchanan-Dineen was recruited for the German espionage service in Budapest in the summer of 1941 by Sari de Hajek, a Hungarian exchange student and a Vassar graduate. It was shown in FBI records. Sari de Hajek was said to have been sent to this country in the guise of a lecturer which gave her an opportunity to gather valuable information on America's early defense efforts while traveling about the country.

Delivered Lectures.

Accompanied by her husband, Guyula Rozinek, a former captain in the German Army, she toured the United States in 1938 and 1939 and delivered many lectures, chiefly on the West Coast. Rozinek was deported in May, 1941, and his wife also returned to Germany. Shortly after his return he is said to have aided his wife in arranging Miss Buchanan-Dineen's entrance into the Nazi espionage service and car-



**BROOKLYN.—ARRAIGNED ON ESPIONAGE CHARGES**—Bert-land Stuart Hoffman (left), 27-year-old Maritime Service sailor, pictured as he was arraigned here yesterday on charges of espionage. He was one of six members of an alleged spy ring arrested by the FBI in New York and Detroit. United States Commissioner Edward E. Fay is at right and Chief Deputy Marshal John J. Ford is in center.

ried on other espionage assignments for the Germans in Europe.

Questions as to why Miss Buchanan-Dineen was charged, like the three other alleged enemy agents, with violation of the wartime espionage law after she had aided the FBI and other Federal agencies were explained at the Justice Department on this ground:

For about two months after her entrance into this country she engaged in espionage activities and had technically violated the law before she co-operated with the FBI. It will be up to the courts to decide, it was said, as to whether any mercy should be shown her if she is convicted.

#### Specific Orders.

Miss Buchanan-Dinene, according to the FBI, was trained in espionage activities in Budapest and Berlin. Her instructions included methods of communication, how to gather vital information, the use of secret inks, micro-photography, and the development of a pretext for her movements about the country. Her specific orders were to concentrate on procuring the following data:

Location of munition and airplane factories, their production and number of employees; location of military camps and naval bases, all available information concerning helium, composition and sailing dates of

convoys and information on medical supplies, exported. For this work she was to be paid \$500 a month.

In training Miss Buchanan-Dineen for her undercover work for the Nazis, Sari de Hajek prepared for her a checkered green and black notebook containing the names, addresses and in most instances telephone numbers of the people she should contact in the United States. The notebook is said to contain the names of approximately 200 prominent people, scattered all over the country from Washington and New York to San Francisco.

#### Contacts Included Willumeit.

The FBI said one of Miss Buchanan-Dineen's first contacts in this country was Mrs. Behrens. Later, it was said, she became acquainted with Dr. Thomas and called on him frequently for information he had obtained from patients. Among her other contacts listed by the FBI were Dr. Otto Willumeit, a former leader of the Chicago German-American Bund who was later convicted on an espionage charge and sentenced to a five-year prison term.

Mrs. Behrens is specifically charged with procuring information as to the location of the manufacturing plants of the Pullman Co. in Chicago, the number of its employees engaged in the manufacture of war material, the character of the ma-



**DR. FRED WILLIAMS THOMAS,**  
Arrested.

terial and the transportation of such material to other manufacturers of war material.

Dr. Thomas is charged with gathering data relating to the number and location of certain plants of the Westinghouse Electric Co. in Ohio engaged in the manufacture of war material, the transportation and disposition of the materials and the location and employment conditions in several plants manufacturing nitroglycerin in Ohio.

Specifically, Miss Buchanan-Dineen is charged with procuring information as to the production capacity of the Ford Motor Co., the safety of construction of its plants against sabotage and airplane bombing attacks and the operation plans of the United States by which Army planes depart for the war zones.

Hoffman also is charged with obtaining information with respect to the Ford Co. and Detroit war plants which he furnished Miss Buchanan-Dineen.